SEPTEMBER-
OCTOBER
1972

WRL NEWS

Published by War Resisters League 339 Lafayette Street, New York, N.Y. 10012, U.S. branch of the War Resisters Intl., a pacifist organization with affiliates in 20 countries and individuals in more than 80 countries. Staff—Ralph DiGia, David McReynolds, Jerry Coffin, Peter Kiger, Lynne Shatzkin, Editor—Jim Peck. *No. 172*

50th ANNIVERSARY CALENDAR

The 1973 Peace Calendar, "Fifty Years of Resistance," marking WRL's 50th anniversary, will feature written material, illustrations and photos of the peace struggle and of those who participated in it. Editing the calendar is Marty Jezer.

Because of increased printing costs, we have had to make a slight increase in price. Single copies are $2.50, five copies for $11—post paid. Order now. The calendar should be available around November 15.

"STREET WITHOUT JOY"

by Jim Peck

This is just one scene from "Street Without Joy," the guerrilla theater show which encircled the Republican convention hall in Miami on the evening of August 22. Simulating the bombings, some participants, holding aloft big model planes, whizzed among groups of prostrate demonstrators—with sound effects. I was in a tableau with Carl Zietlow's family in which they, wearing Vietnamese-style hats, lay on the ground and moaned while I, wearing a Nixon mask and with hands drenched in simulated blood, towered over them. By no matter which gate the delegates chose to enter, they had to view at least one scene.

The effectiveness of "Street Without Joy," was inadvertently made clear in next morning's Miami News, whose front page featured two large color photos under the heading "A Study in Contrasts." The bottom photo, taken inside the convention hall, showed a group of laughing, prosperous, smug-looking delegates. The top photo, taken outside, showed a segment of our show which featured a long, grim-looking row of demonstrators in black mourning veils and wearing white masks. "Street Without Joy"—named after the Saigon-Hanoi highway and the countless war tragedies which have occurred on it—was one of those really creative ideas which we come upon, unfortunately, not often.

But even this action was marred by the SDSers and Attica Brigaders who hovered around the sidelines trashing and shouting verbal insults at the arriving delegates. The incident which marred it most and got national publicity was the knocking-out of two teeth of a delegate by a pro-violence demonstrator.

Dave Dellinger cited this incident the following day in an attempt to get across the fact that violence damages our cause. He was speaking at a rally prior to mobilizing for our march to the Fontainbleau. He expressed the hope that there would be no trashing during the march, in accordance with policy adopted by the Miami Coalition. However, as we marched along Collins Avenue, the SDSers and their cohorts at every corner, dropped out to overturn garbage cans and drag them out into the middle of the street, to bang on car windows and shout insults to passengers. Some of the marchers countered by righting the garbage cans, refilling them and returning them to the curbsides. Most of us voiced our disapproval of the violent acts by shouting "no" in unison and by trying to establish a friendly dialogue with occupants of the stalled cars. A few of the pro-violence demonstrators, following a suggestion of a probable police provocateur who spoke at the rally, opened the hoods of cars and tried to incapacitate the engines.

Photo by Bradford Lyttle

(Continued on page 2)

"STREET WITHOUT JOY" (contd.)

As the trashing and violence along the sidelines of our march continued, one young marcher next to me said: "I'm dropping out right here! I didn't come along for this kind of shit." I tried to dissuade him and said that while I shared his disgust for the violence which was damaging our protest, I intended to simply stick with the march and stick to nonviolence. He walked another block or so, but then did leave.

A few blocks short of the Fontainbleau, we were confronted by a row of police who, without a minute's hesitation, let loose a barrage of gas canisters. One canister struck me just above the eye and I started to bleed heavily. What with the pain of the wound and the sting and stink of the gas, I almost keeled over. But one of our medics grabbed me by the arm and led me to the deserted swimming pool of a posh, oceanfront hotel. After bandaging my head, he summoned an ambulance which took me and another wounded demonstrator to Jackson Hospital. We were the first of some 40 demonstrators injured in the various confrontations with police. A doctor sewed 5 stitches into my wound—a minor operation in contrast to the 53 stitches in Birmingham 1961 on the Freedom Ride.

Confrontations and sitdowns and police gassings went on throughout the night. By morning, the arrests totaled over 900. Of these, 600 stuck together and jailed-in for 24 hours until excessive bail imposed on a few of the demonstrators was reduced and most were released in their own recognizance.

The night of nonstop police gassing, though not pretty, can't be equated to that Wednesday night in Chicago 1968 when police embarked on an all-out bloodbath along Michigan Avenue.

Chicago 1968 was the most nightmarish scene of my life as a nonviolent demonstrator because it represented a graphic preview of what America would be like under Fascism. The reason, of course, is that the Establishment's scenario there was directed by a Fascist-style fuehrer—Mayor Daley. Miami 1972 was *not* Chicago 1968.

NORTHERN IRELAND SLIDE SHOW

After the WRI conference, Brad Lyttle, WRL executive committee member, journeyed to Belfast and Londonderry where he took some 150 color photos showing the military oppression and the devastation in those two cities.

He has assembled these photos in the form of a slide show for presentation at meetings, social gatherings, etc. Persons interested can contact him through the WRL office.

A "BOMB" CONSISTING OF NONVIOLENCE TAGS

by Jim Peck

When I boarded National Air Lines' Flight No. 3 for Miami on August 22 carrying a box about a square foot in dimension, I was halted at the gate by a special anti-hyjacking inspector.

"What's in that box?" he asked.

"1000 PRACTICE NONVIOLENCE tags," I replied.

"You're kidding," he sneered, obviously concluding that I was a wiseguy.

"Well, open it up and see for yourself," I suggested.

The inspector proceeded to untie the string and remove the lid. He took out one of the tags and examined it in detail with an expression of complete incredulity. He then inspected what I had in my other hand—a blanket for sleeping in Flamingo Park—and had me empty my pockets. Finally, with embarrassment, he apologized, citing the recent epidemic of skyjacking, and I boarded the plane—with the WRL tags which were for distribution among demonstrators at the Republican convention. (These popular tags are still available from WRL at $1 per 100.)

On the return flight, I again was singled out by an anti-hyjacking inspector—but for a different reason. I was carrying no hand luggage, but I had a bandage on my forehead and my shirt and pants were stained with blood from the police CS gas canister which had struck me. I looked more like a bombing victim than a bomber.

The inspector quizzed me at length and finally took me to the boarding counter for seat reservations. "Seat this man as far away as possible from the other passengers: he smells of mace," he said. This was feasible because it was a late-night flight and the plane was less than half booked.

TOM FLOWER GETS MAXIMUM SENTENCE

Tom Flower, southwest WRL field representative, and Randy Floyd drew maximum sentences of 6 months in jail and $500 fines from Judge Luther Eubanks for "entering a military reservation for unlawful purposes." The occasion was a sitdown on May 4 at Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma City.

Six other male defendants got 4 months and four women got a year's probation, suspended. All 12 remain free on their own recognizance.

TWO UPDATED LIT. ITEMS, ETC.

AIN'T GONNA PAY FOR WAR NO MORE. Bob Calvert's all-inclusive book on tax resistance is even more all-inclusive in its new and expanded edition $1.50

* * *

AIR WAR INFORMATION PACKET. The updated and expanded packet contains much new material including a 23-page Indochina Resource Center pamphlet "Heroin Traffic in Southeast Asia" $2.50

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In light of Paul Goodman's recent death, it is fitting that we remind readers that two of his books are on our literature list: GROWING UP ABSURD ($1.95) and DRAWING THE LINE ($1.50)

* * *

DANBURY: ANATOMY OF A PRISON STRIKE, the 12 page reprint of a LIBERATION article by John Bach and Mitchell Snyder (publicized in last WRL NEWS), has been banned from all prisons in New York State. It still is available 25c

* * *

Also still available is the exhibit of Cuban children's art which the Mondcivitano crew brought back from Cuba last year in exchange for U.S. children's art work. Some dates still are available in October and starting in December the slate is clear. Contact Peter Kiger at WRL office, if interested.

* * *

Cicero Codina's special peace buttons still are available:

Smile (Peace)—Nix on Wars—Peace (dove)—Peace on Earth—Live in Peace—Walk in Peace—Peace is Wonderful—Thou Shalt Not Kill—Vivere in Pace (Italian)—Blessed Are The Peacemakers—End The War Now. 25c apiece, 7 for $1, 30 for $3.

ENROLLMENT BLANK

Send to War Resisters League
339 Lafayette Street, N. Y., N.Y. 10012

WAR IS A CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY. I THEREFORE AM DETERMINED NOT TO SUPPORT ANY KIND OF WAR, INTERNATIONAL OR CIVIL, AND TO STRIVE FOR THE REMOVAL OF ALL THE CAUSES OF WAR

signature

address

city

state *zip code*

The Election — Two Views

by Connie Bleakley

It is difficult, and in some ways, unpleasant to have to respond to the issue of voting. I say difficult and unpleasant, because it would be infinitely more comforting to succumb to pro-McGovern arguments. It would be reassuring to believe that we still have choices within the electoral system. It would be heartwarming to feel that a man can become the nominee of *either* party without leaving corpses behind him. But I don't believe it any more.

How many times must we be reminded of the usual post-inaugural fate of rosy campaign promises? How many of us voted for Kennedy, whose new frontiers included the Bay of Pigs and the Cuban blockade, and whose new frontiersmen were the Green Berets? How many of us voted for Johnson, the "anti-war" candidate? When will we learn the obvious lessons taught by such betrayals? They are the logical result of a government, an economy, and a culture that is the enemy of all humanity. The President of the United States, be he a saint or angel, is like the rider of a runaway horse. He can no more control its furious pace or direction than we can control the movement of the stars.

What reason do we have to believe that McGovern will be able to exercise any more direction over this nation's policies than his predecessors? Will the Fords, the DuPonts, the Rockefellers go through mysterious and benevolent changes on Election Day? Will the Empire dissolve?

And we are not speaking of an angel. We are talking about a man who has already shown disturbing signs of his corruptability. If one examines his statements vis-a-vis the situation in the Middle East, it takes very little imagination to project an increasing American involvement in that crisis. Who wants to trade a war in Indochina for a war in the Middle East?

And we cannot guarantee that McGovern will end the war in Indochina. Once again, we should remember the lessons of history, the examples of Kennedy and Johnson.

And there are additional odious elements in McGovern's campaign stance. Can we forget his shabby behavior in his dismissal of Eagleton, which surely pushed a general recognition of mental illness as a non-shameful thing back at least ten years? And what woman can countenance his sell-out during the convention on the abortion issue? (And one might speculate about the appointment of Shriver, whose wife is a militant and vocal anti-abortionist, as vice-Presidential candidate.) And McGovern has said that he will continue the wage-price freeze although he also has said that he will insure its more uniform enforcement, without saying how. I suspect that working people will continue to be shortchanged.

Beyond all of these objections, to support McGovern or any candidate is to give credence to a system which preserves the *illusion* of democracy while robbing the people of their freedom. Our task should be to point out the deceptive nature of that process, and to help people gain the awareness that the only way in which they can qualitatively change their lives is by working with each other, not only to resist the illegitimate authority of government, but to create alternatives so that whenever possible we can bypass the tentacles of that illegitimate authority. We can resist the draft and war taxes; let us remove the last cobwebs from our eyes and resist the vote.

by David McReynolds

Proposition One: The Unity of Social Change

The person who plants the wheat and the person who harvests it are both essential to the baking of bread. To oppose one thing to another when both are related is an error.

Social change is like a chain in which every link has an importance. Religion or philosophy give us the moral "ground" needed to challenge the system through moral witness, civil disobedience, mass demonstrations. These events, occuring outside of the system, generate the energy for new institutions to emerge that seek to change the system itself or even replace it. If one takes any one of these links and isolates it, the chain itself is broken. If there are some who say the electoral process is an "illusion," there are others who insist that demonstrations "achieve nothing." Both are wrong. Civil disobedience, moral witness, etc., only ratify the power of a given philosophy and elections—at their best—only ratify the power of civil disobedience, moral witness, etc. Should we then mock the harvest because it only ratifies the planting of the seed?

Proposition Two: McGovern Reflects The Movement

George McGovern did not create the anti-war movement, anymore than Eugene McCarthy created it in 1968. Both men are responding to forces that we have set in motion. They reflect our strength. (Not just "our" strength—i.e., the pacifists—but the strength of youth, of non-whites, of urban poor, of ecologists, of all those who have been pushing for massive and peaceful social change). As reflections of us they are imperfect mirrors. We are radical, they are not. But they do actually reflect our movement *by deeds*, where Nixon reflects us only *by words*. Nixon *talks* about the need for a new American Revolution. Nixon admitted to his convention a few tidy crew-cut clean-cut white youth; some token workers; a handful of blacks. The cameras trained on them but the reality was a convention heavily male, middle aged, white, protestant. And also a convention tied to the military-industrial forces in the South, Southwest, and West. And to the new suburban WASP culture with its lawn ordure and fear of blacks penetrating their new white enclaves. Those are the realities behind the words.

In contrast the Democratic convention mirrored popular demands with actions. Daley and Meany both found themselves outside looking in. Blacks, women, youth all were present in significant numbers. The old Southern racists were largely absent—headed for the Nixon camp. To say that nothing new happened at the Democratic convention is to miss the reality of a mini-revolution which *reflected* work that has been going on outside of established political channels for ten and more years.

Proposition Three: McGovern Is Not Jesus Christ

So far as I know, Jesus never ran in any elections but if he had he would certainly have lost, probably been arrested, and perhaps been assassinated. His function was that of initiator of new values, not that of the man who would ratify society's acceptance of them. McGovern will compromise. He

(Continued on next page)

ON "WHITHER WRL"

by Otto Nathan

I read with interest David McReynolds' piece "Wither WRL" in the May-June issue of *WRL News*. The article deals to a large extent with WRL's organizational problems which I do not care to discuss here. I am, however, much concerned about McReynolds' few remarks about what the objectives of the League's work ought to be in the future.

I always have felt that the purpose of the League was the abolition of war which could be accomplished by resistance to war—by refusal of individuals to participate in war and military service of any kind. Writing in *WRL News* July-August 1969, I made some policy suggestions that I hoped might be discussed at the then forthcoming WRI Triennial conference at Haverford. I believed then, and I believe now, that the time has come for WRL and WRI to consider whether the slogan, by which they have lived and acted for almost half a century, is any longer an adequate basis for the determination of policy. No one in the WRI-family would want to abandon the content of the slogan—that war, a crime against humanity, must not be supported and that we must strive for the removal of all causes of war.

Even more today than three years ago we are justified in assuming that resistance to war by individuals cannot be expected to be very effective in preventing warfare. Similarly, it would be a serious mistake to assume that, whatever efforts may be made, all causes of war can be removed in the foreseeable future. The causes leading to war are manifold; they are economic, religious, political, psychological, ideological, nationalistic, revolutionary, and counter-revolutionary; wars have been caused by the desire for conquest of territories, for acquisition of raw materials and markets, for exploitation of human beings and the lust for national or personal pride or greed. Many times, a mixture of different causes was involved in bringing about war; it has hardly ever been possible to isolate, with a reasonable degree of certainty, one single or several specific causes as the principal originators of a war. Even if more precise knowledge, than we now possess, could be secured about the causes of war or the causes of a specific war, would the war resistance movement be able to make a substantial contribution to the removal of such causes?

I believe not. I am convinced that universal and general disarmament is the only way to a warless world. That is why I suggested three years ago and why I suggest again that WRL and WRI become more active in helping promote total disarmament everywhere in the world. I am not oblivious to the enormous difficulties involved in such a program. This is one more reason why I feel WRL and WRI should join in such efforts.

I cannot share McReynolds' belief that "peace is not the mere absence of conflict, but the presence of justice." I believe that peace means the permanent cessation of all military methods of solving (or trying to solve) conflicts among the nations of the world as well as the creation of institutions of arbitration or mediation if conflicts occur. I do not know what the "presence of justice" means. One might be able to figure out what "justice" is in the case of individuals or possibly in the case of a special conflict occurring between two or several nations. But justice is such an abstract and ambiguous term that I cannot accept the statement that peace is the "presence of justice." I do not believe that "justice" can be established as long as capitalism, a system which by its very nature is unjust, exists. I do not want to discuss here the possibilities and chances of substituting a more equitable and "just" economic system for capitalism. Regardless of the economic organization of society, every effort must be made to abolish war which I have always felt was the supreme purpose of the WRI and its affiliated national organizations.

ELECTIONS (contd.)

will make deals with Daley, give promises to Israel, reconcile with Meany. He will do these things because he wants to win an election. And if he makes too many compromises then, on election day, there will be no choice for us and we can stay home. But if, after all the compromises are made, there still remains a difference, we should get to the polls. We should be cautious of our own purity. No matter how absolute our values, we can at best only approximate them in application. It is true that without deep moral convictions we would soon be awash in a sea of relative choices, forgetting there are many times when we must say "Here I stand, I can do no other." But if we are always satisfied with simply standing and doing no other, we shall do very little indeed.

Proposition Four: When There Is No Choice, Don't; When There Is A Choice, Do

In 1960 the main difference between Kennedy and Nixon was style (and the fact that Kennedy was urging we invade Cuba) so it made sense to stay home or cast a protest vote. In 1964 there was an unhappy choice between Johnson's corruption and Goldwater's right wing extremism. Many, including myself, choose the lesser evil and got corruption plus escalation. In 1968 there wasn't enough to choose from between Humphrey and Nixon to make a vote worthwhile—except a protest vote. But in 1972 the differences are great enough to make a vote urgent. Register now, so you can vote in November.

Proposition Five: Keep On Truckin'

Voting November 7 doesn't mean you have to start paying your phone tax, anymore than refusing to pay your phone tax means you can't vote. Keep on organizing, demonstrating, educating, resisting. And keep on working during the campaign to let people see the real issues—don't just push doorbells for McGovern but push *our* viewpoint on the issues. We are happy McGovern wants to cut the Pentagon budget, but we want to cut the Pentagon, period, and need to explain that position to the voters.

We helped create the choice in this election, now let's help make that choice.

THE TRIENNIAL

by Ralph DiGia, Peter Kiger, David McReynolds

(Photo by Bradford Lyttle)

In at least one way the Fourteenth Triennial Conference of the War Resisters International July 22-27 at Sheffield, England, was a success: it saw the largest group of Americans ever to attend a Triennial abroad. In 1969 we had another precedent by hosting the Triennial here in this country. Thanks to special gifts for help with the travel fund, the entire WRL delegation was present—Ralph DiGia, Jim Forest, Grace Hedemann, Igal Roodenko, Craig Simpson—as well as the American members of the WRI International Council—Randy Kehler, David McReynolds, Margie Rece. A total of more than fifty Americans got to Sheffield, making for a strong impact on the Conference—and a strong impact on the American movement.

In some ways the Sheffield Conference was a trial, a difficult point in the growth of the world pacifist movement. There was a long, indecisive debate over whether or not to modify the "statement of affiliation" for national sections (which is the same as the WRL statement of membership). The problem came up in two ways, with some sections feeling the present statement does not commit them clearly to nonviolence, and some sections feeling that the commitment is too rigid, too much like an oath. The final vote to retain the present statement won by a heavy majority, but the issue itself will certainly come up again within the various sections.

There was also a problem about how to deal with George Lakey's massive and carefully worked out "Manifesto for a Nonviolent Revolution." More than thirty pages of text, the Manifesto reflected three years of work by an international team, and yet by its very size prevented anything more than a general discussion. Clearly it has become an essential working paper for the next three years as the pacifist movement tries to move beyond a position of resistance to one that can also embrace a positive program of radical change.

There was a sharp and at times even bitter conflict between part of the German movement, which tends to find itself partially aligned with the Soviet Bloc of nations, and the rest of the Conference which took a traditionally independent position. And there was the pain of learning that Devi Prasad, after ten years in the difficult post as General Secretary, was retiring to move on to new fields—possibly as international field worker for the WRI. His retirement did not reflect some political shift of power but was the rare decision of a "bureaucrat" to find new openings in his own life.

During the first part of the Conference, in which delegates and non-delegates alike could take full part, there were seventeen special commissions set up to explore topics ranging from International Action to Ecology to Northern Ireland, with the Americans involved in virtually all the commissions. One of the significant events of the Conference was the full participation of the British Fellowship of Reconciliation, with David Harding and Robin Percival of the British FOR playing active roles. In recent years some thought has been given to merging the International Fellowship of Reconciliation and the War Resisters International in a new pacifist international of some kind. This Conference helped show that the secular and religious traditions in the pacifist movement can work together in fellowship—comradeship—at least at the international level.

Cao Ngoc Phuong was present to represent the Vietnamese Buddhists and had a long meeting with the American delegation to explain the position of the Buddhists. We were also fortunate in having Janaki Tschannerl and Bill Sutherland with us—both from Tanzania. Along with Devi Prasad, they tried to point out to the Conference the degree to which the WRI is still fundamentally a "white middle class" organization which finds it terribly hard to ally itself with or even understand the Third World and its struggles for liberation and for programs of development consistent with its own cultural background. Almost invariably we insist on seeing events in Africa, Asia, or Latin America within a Western context, whether pacifist, anarchist or marxist, failing to see that our own culture-patterns are not universal, but limited in time and space, and very different from those in the Third World.

There was a spirited push by younger persons for simpler accomodations at the next conference—similar to the more informal approach WRL has taken toward its annual dinners and conferences. And there were the usual squabbles of a conference as we sat through the occasional sheer boredom with parlimentary procedure, and the inevitable confusions as we Americans tried to thread our way through the German and French and "English-English with the air of excellent translators. But behind the inevitable problems of any conference there was the fact of an international movement against violence and for a compassionate society.

The post of Chairperson could not, for technical reasons, be filled at this Conference and so Michael Randle remains in that post until a new election can be held in the next few months. The new International Council to guide the WRI between Triennials is: Ann Davidon, Uri Davis, Jon Grepstad, Randy Kehler, George Lakey, Jean Van Lierde, David McReynolds, Martin Niemoller, Pietro Pinna, Michael Randle, Myrtle Solomon, Janaki Tschannerl, Vo Van Ai. In addition each section can designate its own member of Council —Margie Rece holds that post for the WRL.

It would be wrong to close without taking this opportunity to urge more of our members to keep in direct touch with the WRI. They issue two publications, one is *War Resistance*, a printed quarterly, $2.50 a year, and WRI Newsletter, a mimeographed bulletin published about ten to fifteen times a year, $2 a year, ($4.25 a year airmail).

DEMO AT ISRAELI CONSULATE CLIMAXES TRAINING PROGRAM

(Photo by Jim Peck)

This photo shows WRL Chairman Igal Roodenko (at left) and participants in the League's pilot, week-long training program, picketing the Israeli Consulate in New York to protest the 6th consecutive prison term imposed on Giorah Neumann, an Israeli CO. Consular officials canceled, without explanation, a scheduled meeting with a deputation of protestors. One possible reason is that they were irked by the sizeable media turnout: 6 reporters and 2 TV cameras. This coverage, unusual for such a small demonstration, can be attributed to the thorough publicity job done by the trainees themselves.

The trainees also drafted and mimeographed the leaflets, which urged Israel "to end compulsory military service and to move toward a lasting peace based upon universal disarmament, not upon force or occupation."

For eight intensive, sweltering, and often confused days (July 8-15) twenty two young people from around the country—Maine to California, Michigan to Louisiana—took part in the training program. Competing with the Democratic Convention and suffering through a New York heat wave the program should be considered a good beginning, with enough strong points to make it worthwhile and enough small disasters to give plenty of room to learn for next year's session.

The objective was to train young people in the theory and techniques of local organizing, and to make it possible for them to encounter a wide range of views other than our own—ranging from those of a Wall Street broker to those of the Black Panthers. WRL staff served as faculty and WRL members in New York provided housing for the group, all of whom paid their own way to and from the training program (except for some travel help to an active duty GI who was part of the group.) Those who took part are sending in suggestions for improving next year's program.

As this is written, four young persons from Michigan, who all had participated in the program, are back in New York to talk with the staff and executive committee about taking WRL program to high school students in the Midwest—possibly with use of the WRL Peace Bus.

A FAST INSIDE JAIL AND A FAST OUTSIDE

On Hiroshima Day two anti-war fasts got under way—one inside prison and one on the outside.

The prison fast strated in Danbury and is continuing in Springfield, where the fasters were transferred. Until August 22, they drank water only. Since then, they have been taking other liquids. The 11 are Kevin Jones, Robert LaRoche, Joseph MacDonald, Stephen Murray, Matthew Ottomano, Richard Phegn, Glenn Pontier, Ronald Riley, Andrew Sawyer, Jr. and Harley Winer. To dramatize the fast, People's Coalition for Peace & Justice sponsored a pilgrimage August 28-September 6 from Danbury to New York.

The outside fast started in New York and will be for an indefinite period. The 14 fasters have drunk water only since August 6. They journeyed to Miami for the protest actions at the Republican convention and now they are back in New York, headquartered at New York Theological Seminary, 235 East 49 Street. The 14 are Paul Couming, Dave Dellinger, Betsy Feltham, Ted Glick, Valarie Hendy, Mike Hickey, Fr. Tom Lumpkin, Fr. Paul Mayer, Mike McKale, Lianne Moccia, Cookie Ridolfi, Ralph Squire, Bob Staley and Anne Walsh.

WRL CONFERENCE

WRL will hold its fourth annual conference on October 7-9 (Columbus Day weekend) at Camp Hi in Hiram, Ohio. The cost per person is $20 - $15 for unemployed. This includes meals and housing. We will all cooperate on child care. Space is limited. To reserve a place send a $5 deposit to WRL immediately.

A PEACE MARCH IN ITALY

by Igal Roodenko

Pietro Pinna of the Italian WRI and I joined a march from Venice to a U.S. airforce base near Aviano several days after the start, after a 36-hour train trip from the International conference in England. We spent two nights at Udine, sleeping on the floor of a local schoolroom, and held a meeting in the City Council chambers.

The next day we walked some 20 miles and slept in a cabaret. There was an evening meeting with a three-cornered confrontation involving us, the police and some local Fascists. After shorter laps the following two days, we held public meetings in town squares.

We had three confrontations with the police, each about a particular road we wanted to take. We lost two and won one. Pietro claimed, however, that one of the losses was in fact a victory because the police chief came out in person. The last confrontation was on the road to the base. There, most of the marchers stayed until nightfall, when they returned to Pordenone. But some of us proceeded via another road to Aviano, the town nearest the base, where we held a public meeting in the town square—again with some Fascist heckling.

By preventing us from marching past the base, the authorities, with traditional plastic-headedness, made sure to arouse the interest of many GIs. The leaflet in English which I had prepared, circulated widely. The GIs I met not only took me for a good dinner (could you imagine finding two vegetarian GIs stationed in Italy?) but also invited me to spend the night in their barracks.

The march covered about 50 miles. At one point I had counted 120 participants, some joining for a few days and dropping out, others joining later. There were pacifists, anarchists, socialists and non-ists. The ideological differences were real but somehow, as we learn so often at home, they become less important among those who march together and eat together and sleep together.